

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00

EPA-01 CEQ-01 OES-06 L-03 /081 W

----- 126904

R 210740Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9361

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD JA

SUBJECT: AUTO STANDARDS

REF: TOKYO 7264

1. SUMMARY. MOFA HAS INDICATED EMBASSY WILL RECEIVE FORMAL ANSWER OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WITHIN TEN DAYS. IN MAY 21 MEETING AT MOT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING A "PRACTICAL" PROPOSAL FROM US RE DATE OF MANUFACTURE CERTIFICATION, INDICATED THAT TIME REQUIRED TO CLEAR 1977 MODELS WILL BE SHORTER THAN THAT FOR 76 MODELS AND EXPRESSED POSITIVE DESIRE TO WORK WITH US INFORMALLY TO WORK TOWARD RESOLVING STANDARDS PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, EMBOFFS MET MAY 21 WITH MOT MOTOR VEHICLES DEPT OFFICIALS UNO AND KITAGAWA. ECON COUNS STATED WE UNDERSTOOD FROM MOFA THAT FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN TEN DAYS.

HE ALSO THANKED MOT OFFICIALS FOR GOJ RESPONSE,

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THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON, ON DATE OF

MANUFACTURE QUESTION AND SAID WE WERE NOW EXAMINING METHODS OF MEETING CERTIFICATION REQUEST.

3. COUNSELOR REITERATED THAT WE REGARD MEETING OF AUTO STANDARDS PRIMARILY AS MATTER BETWEEN IMPORTERS AND RESPONSIBLE GOJ AUTHORITIES BUT THAT THE USG WAS CONCERNED OVER THE LENGTH OF TIME IT HAD TAKEN TO CLEAR THIS YEAR'S MODELS AND WOULD HOPE THAT THAT TIME COULD AT LEAST BE HALVED.

4. MOT OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD BE FORWARDING RESPONSES TO MOFA FOR FORMAL ANSWER OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WITHIN "FEW DAYS". UNO, ENGINEERING DIV. DIR., SAID HE WOULD BE EAGER HEAR OUR PROPOSAL ON DATE OF MANUFACTURE CERTIFICATION AND INDICATED HE FELT TIME NECESSARY TO CLEAR 77 MODELS WOULD NOT BE AS GREAT AS LAST YEAR AS DETAILED CHANGES IN POLLUTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS NOT INVOLVED. HE ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS DISCUSS ANY OTHER POINTS IN GOJ'S ANSWERING NOTE ONCE WE RECEIVE IT. KITAGAWA, DIR. ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL DIV., SAID THREE MAJOR U. S. MANUFACTURERS EXPORTING TO JAPAN WOULD BE SENDING REPS TO 1978 ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY HEARINGS SCHEDULED BEGIN MAY 26.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO APRIL 19 MEETING MOT, THIS ONE HAD POSITIVE AMBIANCE AND INDICATION OF GENUINE WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US INFORMALLY IN HELPING RESOLVE THESE ISSUES.
HODGSON

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